

Lance's Story



Lance the Guinea Pig was adopted from Cavy Care, a no-kill guinea pig rescue in Aurora, Colorado on December 15, 2004. He was surrendered to the shelter with another male pig. Both had been grossly mistreated. Both pigs are blind. It is believed that they were shaken so hard that the lenses of their eyes were dislodged and now rest at the bottom of their eyeballs. Both had had badly performed surgeries on their private parts and had open wounds when they arrived at Cavy Care. A veterinarian tried to correct some of the damage, but was not wholly successful.

I adopted both "special needs" boys (believed to be 6 months old or older at the time) and was uncertain what problems they might experience, but wanted

them to have a nice home for a little while at least. They were very timid and very quiet for the first weeks in their new residence. When put on the floor, they huddled together and stayed in one place. They were squeakless, even when food was offered.



This soon would change. Now when they are let out of their cage, they run to their favorite places in the room. Being blind does not deter them from exploring. They have learned that when they smell coffee in the morning, there will be lettuce soon to follow and squeak loudly to hurry the process.

Lance has a sweet and quiet disposition. Sometimes guinea pigs are too lively to be good visitors, but Lance is bombproof. Not much bothers him. His partner, Krukker is too energetic and distracted to be a good pet partner.



When my work schedule allowed for it, Lance and I visited at Fletcher Miller School in Lakewood. This is a school for developmentally disabled children. Many of the students are severely physically challenged and are wheelchair bound. Some are hearing impaired or sightless (like Lance). Some are mentally challenged as well. When Lance would visit, the students would brush him or give him treats. We would discuss different types of guinea pigs and would talk about how Lance coped with being blind. Because he is so little, he is less intimidating than a larger animal. Not many people are afraid of guinea pigs.

One little girl liked to be helped out of her wheel chair and would get down on the floor to be next to Lance. One nice boy (who was visually impaired) was not in the classrooms where Lance visited, but would be sure to stop by to pet him. He always said the same thing "Got to get a guinea pig". One of the classrooms we visited went on a field trip to REI, the outdoor gear store. At the store, they saw a miniature display tent. They asked if they could have one to take back to school so Lance could sit in it. Lance got to "camp" in the tent at our next visit.



Lance is now helping with the READ program at Bemis Library in Littleton. He is a very good listener. We hope to visit at Aurora Medical Center in the future.

Lance is named after cyclist Lance Armstrong and my other adopted pig, Krukker is named after a baseball player, John Kruk. Both men overcame cancer and other adversities and prospered. So have my piggies. Lance and I are honored and humbled to be named Pet Partner Team of the Month!

Jane Whiteley, people partner to Lance

To see the shelter where Lance and Krukker were surrendered, visit www.cavycareinc.com

